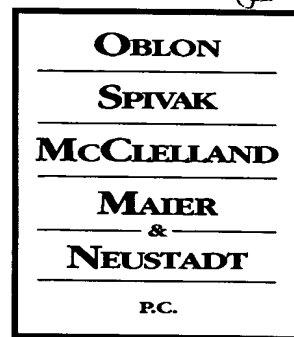




Docket No.: 247354US20DIV

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ECKHARD H. KUESTERS
(703) 413-3000
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RE: Application Serial No.: 10/749,386
Applicants: Jian-Kang ZHU, et al.
Filing Date: January 2, 2004
For: PROTEINS AND DNA RELATED TO SALT
TOLERANCE IN PLANTS
Group Art Unit: 1711
Examiner:

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

STATUS REQUEST FOR FIRST OFFICE ACTION (in duplicate)

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

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DOCKET NO.: 247354US20DIV/mms



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Jian-Kang ZHU, et al.

SERIAL NO: 10/749,386

GROUP NO: 1711

FILED: January 2, 2004

EXAMINER:

FOR: PROTEINS AND DNA RELATED TO SALT TOLERANCE IN PLANTS

FIRST OFFICE ACTION STATUS REQUEST

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Patent Office is respectfully requested to inform the undersigned of the approximate date a first Official Action will be issued in this Application.

A duplicate of this letter is enclosed for your convenience.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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